

City of Fort Lauderdale  
100 N. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

# City of Fort Lauderdale



## 2004 City Overview

# Fort Lauderdale City Commission



Jim Naugle  
Mayor

Commissioner  
Cindi Hutchinson  
District IV

Commissioner  
Carlton B. Moore  
District III



Commissioner  
Christine Teel  
District I

Vice Mayor  
Dean J. Trantalis  
District II



# A City With A Vision

The year 2004 was one of significant change for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Re-examining the way government conducts business has been at the top of our agenda. Changes in City management have provided us with a great opportunity to examine every aspect of our operations with the goal of improving productivity, streamlining expenses and developing a stronger, more effective organization.

The old way of doing business must make way for a new vision for the City. A vision that is based on fiscal responsibility, accountability and quality delivery of services. A vision that rewards excellence, not mediocrity. And, above all, a vision that places the people of Fort Lauderdale first.

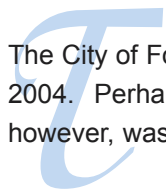
In keeping with that vision, the City has adopted a major restructuring of departments saving \$250,000; restructured sanitation services saving \$900,000 per year; frozen employee salaries in 2004; and implemented a merit pay system for top managers which provides raises only for excellent performance. The City is currently working on a strict new ethics code that will prohibit employees from accepting gifts from anyone who does business with the City and will prohibit conflicts of interest. We are also working to break the log jam in our Building Department and to ensure a more proactive and visible Police Department.

As the future unfolds, the City will continue to work in partnership with its most important asset - our citizens - to develop the strategies necessary to ensure a safe and secure community, provide quality programs and services, enhance quality of life, protect the environment, respect our past, promote smart growth for the future and, most fundamentally, correct the fiscal problems of the past few years.

By remaining focused on our mission, we are confident that we can address the challenges that lie before us, and preserve and enhance the unique characteristics that make Fort Lauderdale such a special City.

We look forward to the months and years ahead with optimism and anticipation as we work to create a better future for the people of Fort Lauderdale.





The City of Fort Lauderdale faced major financial challenges in 2004. Perhaps even greater than the challenges themselves, however, was how the City responded to them.

By reallocating resources, reducing expenditures, and implementing an array of innovative measures, the City generated savings in every department. Improved financial controls over contracted services saved more than \$4.5 million; reducing overtime costs saved \$4 million; closing the City jail, trash transfer station and central stores saved a combined \$4.3 million; and by privatizing sanitation services, the City will save close to \$1 million per year.

A Code Amnesty program raised \$1.3 million and saved the jobs of 30 Public Safety Aides; a new stadium lease with the Baltimore Orioles saved \$900,000; a revised cell phone policy saved \$400,000; and nearly \$200,000 will be saved annually through a new a fiber optic Institutional Network (I-Net). The City also secured more than \$11 million in grants to fund an array of programs and initiatives.

In 2004, fiscal concerns reached a critical level. The City Commission restored fiscal discipline and successfully fulfilled several essential needs by putting more police officers on the streets; establishing emergency reserves; replacing capital outlay; refunding the capital improvement plan; and reducing a \$21 million insurance deficit over the next three years. City employee union contracts were negotiated and enacted with no salary increase. In addition, the fiscal year 2005 budget includes a reorganization plan which saves the City \$250,000, while focusing on improving accountability, communication and responsiveness.

To ensure the City stays on course, the Commission has established an Audit Advisory Board and is monitoring the budget on a monthly basis. The steps taken to strengthen our financial position will enable the City to operate more efficiently and provide a solid foundation upon which we can build a sustainable financial future for Fort Lauderdale.

# A City Fiscally Responsible

A blue-tinted aerial photograph of the Fort Lauderdale skyline, showing various high-rise buildings and urban infrastructure. The image serves as a background for the right side of the page.

# A City Committed To Public Safety



The safety and protection of residents and visitors remains the City of Fort Lauderdale's top priority.

Through its community policing initiative, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department works directly with citizens to address concerns. This partnership is reflected in successful community outreach programs such as the Citizens Police Academy, Citizens On Patrol, Haitian Community Partnership, and Homeless Outreach Program. The Department's ongoing crime prevention programs include Bicycle Registration, Auto Theft Prevention, Gang Resistance Education and Training, Citizens Crime Alert, and numerous free workshops and classes.

Police officers have placed a renewed emphasis on addressing quality of life crimes by applying the "broken window" theory on a citywide basis. The theory focuses on immediately addressing small problems before they develop into larger ones.

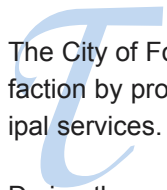
The Automated Fingerprint Identification System, PawnTrac database of pawn transactions, and other advances in technology continue to assist the department in solving crimes and creating a better quality of life for City residents.

In 2004, the Fire-Rescue Department opened the City's new Fire-Rescue Station and Administration Building. The Department responded to 41,500 calls with an average response time of 4 minutes and 30 seconds. Ocean Rescue lifeguards rescued 875 people; responded to more than 3,400 first aid calls; reunited 238 missing persons; and performed 46,268 preventative actions during a year when more than 5.7 million people visited the beach.

More than 25 students participated in the Fire-Rescue Explorers program and nearly 100 citizens completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. The Domestic Preparedness and Emergency Management Bureau led the City's emergency operations during hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, implemented rapid impact assessments following both storms, and coordinated the City's return to normal operations.

The Police and Fire-Rescue Departments collectively secured more than \$8 million in grants and matching funds to support the purchase of a new fireboat, emergency preparedness equipment and supplies, safety equipment, investigative support efforts, training and waterway signage.





The City of Fort Lauderdale remains committed to citizen satisfaction by providing residents with quality, cost effective municipal services.

During the past year, the Citizen Services Office worked closely with each City department to coordinate timely and accurate responses to more than 4,500 information and service requests from residents, visitors and businesses.

The City's Customer service professionals responded to more than 73,000 calls received through the 24-hour Customer Service Center and processed nearly 31,000 requests for service.

Sanitation Services collected more than 56,000 tons of household waste and 30,000 tons of bulk trash. By separating and diverting more than 20,000 tons of yard waste, the City realized more than \$1 million in disposal savings.


Construction Services processed more than 30,000 building permit applications and issued more than 25,000 permits. More than 102,000 inspections were performed, 50,000 building plans were reviewed and 2,590 fax permits were issued. Planning and Zoning fully implemented the "Zoning First" review of all applicable permit applications to provide a more comprehensive and time saving permit review process.

The Community Inspections staff conducted more than 55,000 inspections and performed more than 5,300 lien searches for the public. More than 4,000 illegal signs were removed from public rights-of-way; 26 open and abandoned structures were boarded up; six unsafe buildings were demolished; nearly 300 lots were cleared and close to 400 trash piles were removed from residential and business areas throughout the City. The Division spearheaded a Code Amnesty program that raised over \$1.3 million to save the jobs of 30 Public Safety Aides. The Code Bike Team, which provides visibility and encourages interaction between officers and residents, completed its first full year of operation.

As the City moves forward, we will continue to strive to reduce costs, maximize efficiency and maintain quality programs and services for our community.

# A City Ready To Serve





# A City Enhancing Quality Of Life

By emphasizing community partnerships, citizen participation and shared responsibility, the City of Fort Lauderdale has successfully developed an array of programs to beautify, revitalize and enhance quality of life.

In 2004, the City launched the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team or NEAT program, a cooperative effort between the Building, Community Inspections, Police, Fire-Rescue, Recycling and Parks and Recreation Departments to improve quality of life and enhance neighborhoods. The initiative offers residents free trees and paint, and provides information on how to report illegal dumping, remove illegally parked or abandoned vehicles and keep the community free of code violations.


Fort Lauderdale celebrated the opening of the Riverside Park Community Center and secured \$500,000 in funding from Broward County to rebuild the community center at George English Park. The Aquatic Complex hosted 104 event days, generating an estimated \$11.2 million in economic stimulus; War Memorial Auditorium hosted 176 event days attracting more than 162,000 patrons; and an agreement was signed with the Baltimore Orioles to continue spring training at Fort Lauderdale Stadium.

Participation in the City's Parks and Recreation programs and activities remained strong. The fall soccer program attracted 1,640 participants; 3,800 children attended Learn to Swim programs; more than 1,800 seniors participated in the South Florida Senior Games; and more than 400 teens participated in the 7th Annual Teen Career Fair. The SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch celebrated its 14th Anniversary and the Bank of America Starlight Musicals took place for the 26th consecutive year.

Fort Lauderdale received national and international visibility by playing host to such major events as the Greater Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, McDonald's Air and Sea Show, Seminole Hard Rock WinterFest Boat Parade, Navy Days, Fleet Week and the ever popular Santa on the Beach.

To maintain quality of life and anticipate future needs, the City is working closely with community residents to develop a Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that will guide the planning, growth, funding, service and development of City parks in the years ahead.





In 2004, the City of Fort Lauderdale incorporated environmental preservation practices into numerous aspects of its operations.

The annual Water Quality Report was distributed in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act. The City's drinking water exceeded all Federal and State requirements. The Water Quality Report was nominated by Broward County and the State of Florida for the EPA's Consumer Confidence Report Excellence Award for a large ground water system.


The water at George English Park was significantly improved through the installation of an underground aerator which creates water movement and enhances its quality. The Clean Beaches Council named Fort Lauderdale Beach as a "Blue Wave Beach" for meeting its rigorous health, safety and environmental standards.

The City's recycling program produced more than 6,108 tons of recyclable materials and generated \$369,000 in net revenue. The annual Magazine/Catalogue Recycling Program diverted close to 52 tons of magazines; the Office Paper Recycling Program diverted more than 226 tons of office paper, which generated more than \$19,600 in revenue; the Laser Inkjet Cartridge Recycling Program diverted more than 624 printer cartridges and generated \$805 in revenue. The City also distributed 3,380 free gallons of recycled paint to residents to improve the appearance of their properties.

The City conducted ongoing quarterly testing of the Wingate landfill site to ensure compliance with environmental regulations, and continued to work closely with the community, and local, state and federal agencies on the plan to clean up and reopen Lincoln Park.

Nearly 2,000 trees were given away free to residents through the Adopt-A-Tree program and special events. A new tree inventory software program was purchased to catalog tree size, location, species, age, trimming and pruning. Fort Lauderdale received the Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 25th consecutive year.

# A City Preserving The Environment





# A City That Values Community Partnerships



A great deal of Fort Lauderdale's success can be attributed to the City's strong relationships with its neighborhoods and its emphasis on community involvement.

Thirty-two Advisory Boards and Committees offer citizens the opportunity to get involved in a wide array of City activities. In 2004, the Charter Review Board made recommendations to shape the future direction of the City. New amendments approved by the City Commission and passed by voters allow Commissioners to appoint assistants, authorize the creation of a City Auditor position, and require a unanimous vote of the Commission to sell, transfer or lease (for more than one year) City park property.

The City's housing and community development initiatives provided homeownership opportunities to first time home buyers and the HOPWA program helped close to 2,000 individuals and families with housing, rental vouchers, assisted living and emergency financial assistance. The City hosted its first Affordable Housing Roundtable to obtain public input on issues, opportunities and challenges related to affordable housing. The City strengthened its international partnerships through several Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International programs including the Economic Development Summit, Third Annual Diplomat's Gala and Sister Cities Challenge Cup international golf event.

The Community Area Planning (CAP) initiative is well underway. Master planning is taking place in the Central CAP Area; an action plan is in place in the East CAP Area to curb solicitation and reduce pedestrian accidents; and the South Andrews and Davie Boulevard Master Plans are moving forward in the South CAP Area. Neighborhood Capital Improvement projects were completed in 16 neighborhoods and a grant from the Business Capital Improvement program helped fund the City's first Uptown entryway sign. Community Appearance Awards were presented to more than 25 public and private properties for enhancing the City's visual image and economic vitality.

More than 300 residents helped the Citizens Volunteer Corps spruce up George English and Esplanade parks, clean up graffiti in the Riverland neighborhood, and officially launch the renovation of Southside School by beautifying the property.



The City of Fort Lauderdale uses the latest advancements in technology to maximize operational efficiency and enhance customer service.

The City's website, [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov), added a number of new features to improve speed, convenience and customer service. Citizens are now able to pay their monthly utility bill online via credit or debit card. Tickets to City events may be purchased online, and businesses and residents may utilize the website for alarm registration and payment. The City's online pawnshop reporting system has assisted the Police Department in tracking and recovering stolen property; the New Municipal Code search engine provides improved access and navigation to the City's Municipal Code of Ordinances; and a new video web server has significantly improved the quality and reliability of video webcasts of the City Commission meetings.


The website also features a new interactive online calendar that provides a listing of City Commission meetings; board meetings; advisory board meetings; festivals; Park and Recreation programs; events at War Memorial Auditorium, the Aquatic Complex and Tennis facilities; and an array of other activities.

The website's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications were expanded with the addition of the Property Information Reporter (PIR) and the Improvement and Construction Projects Locator (ICP). The PIR provides data about zoning, neighborhood associations, commission districts, sanitation, hurricane evacuation, flood zones and other information for addresses anywhere in the City. The ICP provides information about present and future City construction projects.

The City introduced SmartPark and the Parking Meter Debit Card, two devices designed to make parking easier and more convenient by offering citizens the chance to purchase prepaid parking hours that can be used at most City municipal parking lots and meters.

As new technologies continue to emerge, the City will remain focused on applying these innovative solutions to improve communication, work flow and responsiveness.

# A City On the Cutting Edge Of Technology







# A City Honoring Its Past

The recognition, celebration and preservation of our past remained a priority for the City in 2004.

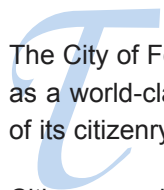
At a time when our nation again found itself fighting to preserve and protect freedom, Fort Lauderdale honored the men and women who proudly serve our country. At commemorative events on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, the City remembered and honored those who served our country as members of the armed forces. The Veteran's Day celebration included the return of the F86H Sabre Jet to its position outside War Memorial Auditorium near the entrance to Holiday Park.

The City honored the enormous contributions made by citizens during preceding decades. Prominent Fort Lauderdale residents were recognized when a portion of 2nd Street was renamed after James A. Dallas, Sr., a successful businessman, entrepreneur and humanitarian, and a length of N.W. 23rd Avenue was renamed after pioneer and civil rights crusader Eula Johnson. The City hosted the 30th annual Citizen Recognition Awards Ceremony to acknowledge citizens whose selfless efforts and commanding vision have left their mark for generations to come. Among those honored for their outstanding service were Citizen of the Year William G. Crawford, Distinguished Citizen Robert B. Lochrie and Honored Founder W. George Allen.

Other historically-conscious projects include the Maritime Museum, which will be built on the site of the former New River Post Office and the renovation of the Southside School building and grounds, which the City is spearheading with the nonprofit group "Friends of Southside." Southside School opened in 1923 and educated generations of Fort Lauderdale students including Virginia Shuman Young, the first woman to be elected Mayor of Fort Lauderdale.

City officials, advisory board members, not-for-profit entities and private citizens coalesced to recognize and protect landmarks of unique historical significance throughout the City. The City continued to support the efforts of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Preservation Board, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, the Broward Trust and other organizations dedicated to preserving and protecting our heritage.





The City of Fort Lauderdale continued to strengthen its position as a world-class City and meet the growing and diverse needs of its citizenry.

Citizens made a long-term investment in the future of the City when they overwhelmingly approved a \$40 million Fire-Rescue Safety Bond that will replace nine deficient Fire-Rescue stations and construct one new station in the City's southeast area. The new stations will enhance Fire-Rescue coverage, reduce response time and help the Department maintain outstanding levels of service for years to come.

Downtown continues to flourish with more than 30 commercial, residential and mixed-use projects completed or in various stages of development. Upon completion, the existing projects are expected to more than double the downtown tax base and help create a 24-hour City that offers a unique urban lifestyle unlike any other in South Florida.

In the Uptown Business District, Kaplan University has opened a facility that houses 700 employees and construction continues on BankAtlantic's corporate headquarters which will bring more than 300 jobs to the City. Capital improvement projects at Executive Airport included \$3 million in security enhancements, a \$5 million runway rehabilitation, and the installation of new identification and directional signage.

Activity in the City's Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) was highlighted by the construction of new homes in the Sweeting's Landing and Sweeting Estates neighborhoods, the opening of the Jefferson at Fort Lauderdale mixed-use project, and the completion of the design phase of the Sistrunk Boulevard Enhancement project.

*WaterWorks 2011*, the City's water and wastewater infrastructure modernization project, completed design and/or construction work on 241 projects valued at \$87.9 million. The City expanded its boundaries by successfully annexing the Twin Lakes North and Rock Island areas, which will officially join Fort Lauderdale on September 15, 2005.

In the coming years, the City will continue to work cooperatively with its citizens to ensure a bright future for all.

# A City Building For The Future



## City of Fort Lauderdale Advisory Boards

Audit Advisory Board  
Aviation Advisory Board  
Beach Redevelopment Board  
Board of Adjustment  
Board of Trustees of the General Employees' Retirement System  
Board of Trustees of the Police and Firefighters Retirement System  
Budget Advisory Board  
Cemeteries Board of Trustees  
Charter Revision Board  
Citizen's Board of Recognition  
Citizen Review Board  
Civil Service Board  
Code Enforcement Board  
Community Appearance Board  
Community Services Board  
Downtown Development Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Economic Development Advisory Board  
Education Advisory Board  
Historic Preservation Board  
Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Board of Commissioners  
Insurance Advisory Board  
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board  
Marine Advisory Board  
Northwest - Progresso - Flagler Heights Redevelopment Advisory Board  
Nuisance Abatement Board  
Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board  
Performing Arts Center Authority  
Planning and Zoning Board  
Unsafe Structures and Housing Appeals Board

## City of Fort Lauderdale Committees

Code Advisory Committee  
Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee  
Utilities Advisory Committee